

Instead of a ball and spring arrangement, an accelerometer 60 (see FIG. 5) could be used, with the appropriate circuitry to generate the necessary signal in response each recoil of the fire arm.

At column 5, lines 8-37:

Microcontroller 6 (not seen in Fig. 2) is electrically connected to inertia switch assembly 4, through center contact 20 and post 25, and as mentioned above, microcontroller 6 receives the signal from inertia switch assembly 4. Microcontroller 6 is a programmable microcontroller, which has been configured to count the number of signals, or circuit closures it receives from inertia switch assembly 4. In the preferred embodiment, microcontroller 6 is a Sanyo LC5732N. Microcontroller 6 generates an output signal which is indicative of the number of signals it has received from inertia switch assembly 4. This output signal drives display 10, which is connected through flex connector 30. Display 10 can be any type of visually perceptible display, such as a graphical display or a numeric display. In the preferred embodiment, display 10 includes nine segment, positive LCD 32 and back light 34, giving a visual indication indicative of the count. Back light 34 is preferably red so as to minimize the loss of night vision when reading LCD 32. A nine segment LCD was used to minimize size, but larger displays can also be used. Although the preferred embodiment uses a visual display, which continuously displays the count, as used herein, display is not limited to visually perceptible displays, but can include audio displays, such as tones or even spoken numbers, diagrammatically indicated at 62 in FIG. 5, alone or in combination with a visual display. Additionally, the output of microcontroller 6 may be directed to a data collection device, such as a computer, through use of port 48, which is connected to microcontroller 6 through connector 48a. This feature will be particularly useful with large caliber or permanently mounted firearms.

At column 6, lines 26-38:

Also, as mentioned above, microcontroller 6 could be connected to a data collection device or computer, particularly for large caliber or permanent installations, such as military applications. This would allow better management of maintenance and tracking of usage. In such case, microcontroller 6 would be configured to deliver data through port 48, such as in a generic numeric